

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A plasma display panel comprising:

a first substrate having a plurality of electrode pairs covered by a dielectric layer,

at least one of electrodes constituting each said electrode pair being separated in a thickness direction of said dielectric layer to form a lower electrode and an upper electrode,

said lower and upper electrodes being connected electrically to each other, by a connecting wiring, to make such ~~that~~ said lower and upper electrodes ~~becomes~~ equipotential;

a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to said first substrate with a gap; and

discharge gas filling said gap between said first substrate and said second substrate.

2. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper electrode includes electrodes provided in a plurality of different layers in the thickness direction of said dielectric layer.

3. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of said electrodes of each said electrode pair includes said lower electrode and said upper electrode, one of said upper electrodes includes opposing electrodes provided in a plurality of different layers and the other opposing upper electrode includes opposing electrodes provided in the same number of different layers and corresponding ones of said electrode layers of said opposing upper electrodes are in the same position in the thickness direction of said dielectric layer.

4. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 3, wherein said one of said opposing upper electrodes and said the other of said opposing upper electrodes are formed symmetrically about a center of a first sustain gap between one of said opposing lower electrodes of each said electrode pair and the other lower electrode.

5. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 4, wherein a second sustain gap is provided between one of said upper electrodes and the other upper electrode, which are mutually opposing with a gap therebetween, which gap is the smallest among gaps between said upper electrodes of said electrode pair, and said second sustain gap is substantially coincident with said first sustain gap.

6. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 4, wherein a second sustain gap is provided between one of said upper electrodes and the other upper electrode, which are mutually opposing with a gap therebetween, which gap is the smallest among gaps between said upper electrodes of said electrode pair, and one of said first sustain gap and said second sustain gap is within the other region.

7. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 3, wherein a center of said first sustain gap is deviated from a center of said second sustain gap.

8. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said electrodes of each said electrode pair includes said lower electrode and said upper electrode and at least one divided electrode having a potential equal to the potential of one of said upper electrodes is provided on a side of said one upper electrode corresponding to at least one of said lower electrodes in a plane, which is the same as a plane of said one upper electrode, remote from said other lower electrode.

9. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein a width of said upper electrode is a half of a width of said lower electrode or less.

10. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein a width of said upper electrode is one fifth a width of said lower electrode or less.

11. (currently amended) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~a connecting wiring for electrically connecting said upper electrode to said lower electrode to make said upper and lower electrodes equipotential~~ and a low resistance wiring for leading said upper electrode together with said lower electrode externally.

12. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 11, further comprising partition walls formed on said second substrate extending in parallel in a direction orthogonal to said electrode pairs formed on said first substrate, wherein said first substrate includes discharge cell regions uniformly partitioned by said partition walls and regions for separating the plurality of said electrode pairs and said connecting wiring is formed in a region of each said discharge cell region except said second sustain gap between said upper electrodes corresponding to said electrode pair.

13. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 11, wherein said low resistance wiring is formed either on said substrate on which said lower electrodes are formed or in a position of said upper electrode in a thickness direction of said dielectric layer.

14. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper electrode is formed in a single layer and said dielectric layer includes a first dielectric layer

deposited on said substrate and underlying said upper electrode and a second dielectric layer covering said substrate having said first dielectric layer.

15. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 14, wherein said upper electrodes constitute a single layer upper electrode pair corresponding to said electrode pair and said dielectric layer is formed below said second sustain gap between said upper electrode pair such that said dielectric layer contains said second sustain gap.

16. (original) A plasma display panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said discharge gas contains at least one of xenon, krypton, argon and nitrogen as exciting gas for generating ultraviolet light for exciting a fluorescent member and a partial pressure of the exciting gas is 100hPa or higher when said exciting gas contains one of xenon, krypton, argon and nitrogen.

17-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A plasma display panel comprising:

- a lower electrode pair contacting a first substrate;
- a first dielectric layer covering at least a portion of the lower electrode pair and contacting at least a portion of the first substrate;

- [[a]] an upper electrode pair contacting an upper part of the first dielectric layer and being separated in a thickness

direction of the first dielectric layer from the lower electrode pair;

the lower and upper electrode pairs being connected electrically to each other by a connecting wiring so that the lower and upper electrode pairs ~~being~~ are equipotential;

a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to the first substrate with a gap; and

discharge gas filling the gap between the first substrate and the second substrate.

22. (currently amended) ~~The plasma display panel of claim 21, further comprising:~~

A plasma display panel comprising:

a lower electrode pair contacting a first substrate;

a first dielectric layer covering at least a portion of the lower electrode pair and contacting at least a portion of the first substrate;

an upper electrode pair contacting an upper part of the first dielectric layer and being separated in a thickness direction of the first dielectric layer from the lower electrode pair;

the lower and upper electrode pairs being connected electrically to each other,

the lower and upper electrode pairs being equipotential;

a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to
the first substrate with a gap;

discharge gas filling the gap between the first
substrate and the second substrate;

a second dielectric layer contacting an upper surface
of the first dielectric layer; and

a further-upper pair of electrodes contacting an upper
part of the second dielectric layer and being separated in a
thickness direction of the second dielectric layer from the upper
electrode pair,

the lower, upper, and further-upper electrode pairs
being connected electrically each other,

the lower, upper, and further upper electrode pairs
being equipotential.

23. (previously presented) The plasma display panel of
claim 21, wherein, the first dielectric layer covers only a
portion of the lower electrode pair.

24. (previously presented) The plasma display panel of
claim 22, wherein,

the first dielectric layer covers only a portion of the
lower electrode pair;

the second dielectric layer contacts only a portion of
the upper surface of the first dielectric layer; and

the second dielectric layer is free of contact with the
upper electrode pair.